

Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P138

In the Claims:

1 (currently amended): An assembly for loading and unloading products which comprises:

a balanced loading and unloading arm which is installed at a first location and which includes a compass-style duct system having a first end mounted on a base and a second end provided with a connection system suitable for connecting the compass-style duct system to a coupling means installed at a second location;

a cable which ~~is extendable~~ during product loading and unloading operations is secured between the first and second locations;

means at the first location for subjecting the cable to a constant tension; and

means co-operating with the cable for guiding the connection system along the cable until the connection system is brought into a position adjacent the coupling means;

wherein the guiding means comprises a drive winch which is connected to the connection system and which ~~operates~~ in operation frictionally engages the cable to drive the connection system along the cable ~~when the cable is stretched between the first location and the second locations.~~

2 (canceled).

3 (previously amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, wherein the cable comprises means for co-operating with a locking.

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system at the second location to thereby keep the cable attached to the second location.

4 (previously amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 3, wherein the means for co-operating with the locking system comprises a sleeve which is crimped onto the cable.

5 (canceled).

6 (canceled).

7 (currently amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, wherein the cable crosses from a first side of the connection system closest to the first location to a second side of the connection system closest to the second location.

8 (previously amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, wherein the constant tension means comprises an emergency disconnection system for the cable.

9 (currently amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 8, wherein the constant tension means comprises a winder and the emergency disconnection system ~~comprises a device for clamping the cable and for releasing the cable~~ functions to release the cable from the winder when the cable is unwound beyond a predetermined maximum number of turns.

10 (currently amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, further comprising an alignment guide which is connected to the connection system and which comprises a ring portion through which the cable passes ~~and~~ which is spaced apart from the connection system.

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11 (previously amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a rotation device capable of ordering an angular movement of the connection system relative to the compass-style duct system.

12 (previously amended): The loading and unloading system according to claim 1, further comprising means for coupling the connection system to the second location.

13 (previously amended): The loading and unloading system according to claim 12, wherein the connection system comprises a female truncated conical element and the coupling means comprises a male truncated conical element which is adapted to fittingly engage the female truncated conical element.

14 (new): An assembly for loading and unloading products between a first location and a second location which comprises:

a balanced loading and unloading arm which is installed at the first location and which includes a compass-style duct system having a first end mounted on a base and a second end provided with a connection system for connecting the compass-style duct system to the second location;

a cable which during product loading and unloading operations is stretched between the first and second locations; and

a winch which engages the cable and which when activated moves the connection system from the first location to the second location;

wherein the winch is supported on the connection system and when activated frictionally engages the cable to move the connection system from the first location to the second location.

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15 (new): An assembly for loading and unloading products between a first location and a second location which comprises:

a balanced loading and unloading arm which is installed at the first location and which includes a compass-style duct system having a first end mounted on a base and a second end provided with a connection system for connecting the compass-style duct system to the second location;

a cable which is securely connected to the connection system; and

a winch which engages the cable and which when activated moves the connection system from the first location to the second location;

wherein a first end of the cable is connected to the first location, a second end of the cable is connected to the winch and the cable is wound around a pulley which is positioned at the second location.

16 (new): The assembly of claim 15, wherein the winch is positioned at the first location.

17 (new): The assembly of claim 15, wherein the first end of the cable is connected to means positioned at the first location for subjecting the cable to a constant tension.

18 (new): The assembly of claim 15, further comprising means for attaching the connection system to the cable.

19 (new): The assembly of claim 18, wherein the attaching means comprises a number of hydraulic clips.